



Department of Justice

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ST. LOUIS MAN SENTENCED TO 8 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

ST. LOUIS, MO - Eric Orozco was sentenced to 97 months in prison followed by supervised release for life, United States Attorney Catherine L. Hanaway announced today.

“Many people think that viewing and exchanging child pornography is a victimless crime—actually, it is the opposite—every time these images are viewed, the child in the photo is victimized over and over again,” said Hanaway.

In April 2005, an undercover FBI agent in buffalo, New York connected to the Undernet series of Internet Relay Chat servers and entered a chat room where child pornography was being advertised, and downloaded image files depicting child pornography. They traced the address of the file server to Eric Orozco in St. Louis. In June 2005, agents from the FBI and the United States Postal Inspection Service executed a federal search warrant at Orozco’s residence. Agents seized his computer, which contained two hard drives. During the search Orozco was interviewed by agents and admitted that hundreds of images of child pornography would be found on his computer hard drive, and that he had set up a file server to trade child pornography. Postal Inspectors found approximately 600 graphic image files that contained images of minors engaged in sexually explicit contact.

Orozco, 26, 2000 block of Chablis Drive, St. Louis, pled guilty last July to one felony count of possession of child pornography, and appeared today for sentencing before United States District Judge Stephen Limbaugh.

This case is being brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov

Hanaway commended the work on the case by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the United States Postal Inspection Service, and Assistant United States Attorney Reginald Harris,

who handled the case for the U.S. Attorney's Office.

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